

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

COME-00 SCEM-02 FPC-01 NIC-01 SCI-06 INT-08 L-03 H-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 OPIC-12 /181 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8359

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR, GW

SUBJECT: GAS PROJECTS IN IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 7377, BONN 9858

1. FRG INTEREST IN IRANIAN NATURAL GAS HAS INCREASED, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SHAH APPARENTLY TOLD ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH, DURING HIS VISIT TO TEHRAN EARLIER THIS MONTH, THAT SOVIET APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED IRAN-USSR-FRG SWITCH DEAL WAS FORTHCOMING. ACCORDING TO FRG SOURCES, HOWEVER, THE SHAH NOW WISHES TO RELY ON THE USSR FOR NO MORE THAN 10 BILLION CUBIC METERS/YEAR OF HIS INTENDED SALES TO EUROPE. (THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY REQUESTED THAT IRAN DELIVER

AN ADDITIONAL 20 BILLION CUBIC METERS/YEAR TO THE USSR, IN TURN FOR THE USSR DELIVERING AN ADDITIONAL 10 BILLION CUBIC METERS/YEAR OF ITS OWN GAS TO THE FRG; NIGC, WE ARE TOLD HERE, HAS OFFERED A RATIO OF 13 OR 14 TO 10.)

2. RUHRGAS HAS ACCORDINGLY GIVEN NIGC LAST WEEK A LETTER OF INTENT ON PURCHASE OF 10 BILLION CUBIC METERS/YEAR UNDER SUCH A THREE-WAY DEAL WITH THE USSR. RUHRGAS NOTED THAT IT WAS ACTING ON BEHALF OF A FRENCH AND AN ITALIAN COMPANY AS WELL WHICH WOULD EACH TAKE PART OF THE PROPOSED DELIVERIES. PRICE AND FINANCING OF INSTALLATIONS IN IRAN HAVE NOT BEEN SETTLED.

3. DURING HIS VISIT IN IRAN, FRIDERICH'S WAS TOLD THAT NGIC INTENDS TO DELIVER THE REMAINING 30 BILLION CUBIC METERS/YEAR OF ITS PLANNED GAS SALES TO WESTERN EUROPE VIA A PIPELINE TO TURKEY (PROBABLY THE BLACK SEA PORT OPTION). RUHRGAS REMAINS MILDLY INTERESTED IN A PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROJECT IF ENI OF ITALY, WHICH HAS TAKEN THE LEADERSHIP HERE, CAN WORK IT OUT. BUT THE FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNED CONSIDER THIS A LONGER-TERM AND MORE IFFY PROPOSITION THAN THE SWITCH DEAL WITH THE USSR.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN15594
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973106/aaaaadwp.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 TEHRAN 7377, 73 BONN 9858
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAS PROJECTS IN IRAN
TAGS: ENRG, IR
To: SECSTATE WASHDC ANKARA LONDON MOSCOW PARIS ROME TEHRAN OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005